



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Template Version 2.09

Voluntary Report - Public distribution

Date: 7/7/2008

GAIN Report Number: RS8051

Russian Federation

Biotechnology

Adventitious Presence of Biotech Components in Feeds

2008

Approved by:

Kimberly Svec
U.S.Embassy

Prepared by:

Yelena Vassilieva, Kimberly Svec, and Cynthia Barmore

Report Highlights:

Russia's Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance (Rosselkhoznadzor) defines feed as biotech-free if 0.5 percent or less of each component contains non-registered biotech products and if 0.9 percent or less of each component contains registered biotech products.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Trade Report
Moscow [RS1]
[RS]

Summary

Russia's Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance (Rosselkhozadzor)¹ informed its regional divisions of its new definition for biotech-free feed. It defines feed as biotech-free if 0.5 percent or less of each component contains non-registered biotech products and if 0.9 percent or less of each component contains registered biotech products. In this case, "registered" refers to products registered in Russia and "non-registered" refers to products not registered in Russia.

VPSS acknowledges that slight adventitious presence of biotech components is unavoidable. However, there are no legal regulations for the adventitious presence of biotech ingredients in feed. The appropriate Technical Regulation ("On requirements for bio-safety and safety of biotech plants") has been drafted, but has not yet been adopted. In such cases, Russian authorities may use international standards and norms, provided they do not conflict with existing Russian law. VPSS consequently adopted the EU's 0.5 percent level for non-registered biotech products in feeds and Russia's 0.9 percent level (derived from Russian legislation on food products) for registered biotech products.²

By clarifying the levels at which feed may be declared "GMO-free", VPSS will prevent differing interpretations at customs. Such clarification is necessary, since VPSS has many laboratories that are capable of determining slight traces of biotech components. Given that most feeds on the world market have or may have biotech components, VPSS's new definition may encourage feed importers to register more feed as biotech.³

VPSS's Instruction #FS-AS-2/493 of May 7, 2008

On May 7, 2008, Deputy Head of VPSS Aleksey I. Saurin issued instructions to the heads of VPSS's regional departments and to the heads of Russia's veterinary departments on the adventitious presence of biotech components in feed.⁴ The stated purpose of the instructions is to harmonize Russian regulations on feed imports as recommended by the World Trade Organization. They are issued in accordance with the Russian Law "On Protection of Consumer Rights" No 2300-1 of February 07, 1992, the Resolution of the Russian Government "On Veterinary Measures During Imports of Live Animals and Animal Products to the Customs Territory of the Russian Federation" No 159 of March 14, 2006, the Hygiene Requirements for Food Safety (SanPiN 2.3.2.1078-01, amended version SanPiN 2.3.2.1842-04, and SanPiN 2.3.2.2227-07), and the Civil Code of the Russian Federation⁵.

The instructions stipulate the following:

1. Feed containing non-registered biotech products in the amount of 0.5 percent or less of each component is considered GMO-free feed. The said amount of biotech products shall be accepted as adventitious or technically-unavoidable impurities. Feed containing the said amount of biotech products may be used without limitation.

¹ Hereinafter referred to as VPSS

² Adventitious unavoidable presence of biotech ingredients in food products or components of food products is not more than 0.9 percent (GAIN RS7077 Biotechnology / Federal Law sets Biotech Labeling Threshold at 0.9 Percent)

³ GAIN RS7078 Biotechnology / Registration Procedure for GMO feeds.

⁴ Instruction #??-??-7/4393 of May 07, 2008. The VPSS's headquarters' instructions/orders are mandatory for the regional VPSS's officers and department, including those which control imports of products.

⁵ None of these documents has direct reference to levels of adventitious, unavoidable presence of biotech components in plants or feeds.

2. Feed containing registered biotech products in the amount of 0.9 percent or less of each component is considered GMO-free feed. The said amount of biotech products shall be accepted as adventitious or technically-unavoidable impurities. Feed containing the said amount of biotech products may be used without limitation.

Relevant Reports

RS7078 Biotechnology / Registration Procedure for GMO Feeds

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/gainfiles/200711/146292888.pdf>

RS7077 Biotechnology / Federal Law sets Biotech Labeling Threshold at 0.9 Percent

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/gainfiles/200711/146292887.pdf>

RS7053 Biotechnology / Russia Establishes 0.9 % Threshold for Biotech Labeling

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/gainfiles/200707/146291830.pdf>

RS7052 Biotechnology / Annual Report 2007

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/gainfiles/200707/146291797.pdf>

RS7028 Biotechnology / Russian Sanitary Inspectors Strengthen Control Over Biotech Food

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/gainfiles/200703/146280576.pdf>

RS7023 Biotechnology / "GMO-Free" Labeling of Food Products in Moscow

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/gainfiles/200703/146280370.pdf>